

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     PRETOR 04718 141841Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /095 W  
-----090216 141927Z /53

P R 141718Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2112  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMMBASSY MAPUTO 2741  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PORG, WA, SF  
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: VIEWS EXPRESSED ON REGISTRATION ISSUE  
AND INDEPENDENCE DATE

1. DURING THE AFRIKAANS HALF-HOUR SUNDAY NIGHT TV NEWS  
BROADCAST AUGUST 13, ABOUT 20 MINUTES WERE DEVOTED TO CLIFF SAUNDERS  
INTERVIEWS IN WINDHOEK ON THE VOTER REGISTRATION ISSUE. AMONG  
THOSE INTERVIEWED WERE DTA SECY BILLY MARAIS, MRS. ABRAHAMS  
OF SWAPO-D, THE TOP REGISTRATION OFFICIALS, AKTUR LEADER DU  
PLESSIS, THLABANELLO OF SWAPO, AND SRI LANKAN KANAKARATNE OF  
AHTISAARI'S TEAM. KANAKARATNE IS APPARENTLY RESPONSIBLE  
FOR LOOKING INTO THE REGISTRATION QUESTION. HE STARTED  
REPLIES TO SAUNDERS' LOADED QUESTIONS BY REPEATING SEVERAL  
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PAGE 02     PRETOR 04718 141841Z

TIMES THAT IT WAS NOT THE FUNCTION OF MR. AHTISAARI'S  
TEAM TO EXPRESS OPINIONS OR MAKE VALUE JUDGMENTS. IT WAS  
TO COLLECT FACTS ONLY TO PRESENT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
FOR ANALYSIS IN PREPARATION OF HIS REPORT TO THE SECURITY  
COUNCIL. THROUGH PERSISTENCE SAUNDERS FINALLY HAD  
KANAKARATNE SAYING THAT THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AS  
THEY HAVE BEEN EXPLAINED TO HIM SEEMED BASICALLY

ACCEPTABLE, BUT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE STUDY OF IMPLEMENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF COMPLAINTS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE ABOUT IMPROPER IMPLEMENTATION. HAD PROOF OF IMPROPER PROCEDURES BEEN PRESENTED? NO, BUT THE PEOPLE MAKING THE CHARGES HAD BEEN ASKED TO PRESENT THEIR EVIDENCE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. "THD CITIZEN" AUGUST 14 ALSO REPORTED THAT THE UN TEAM IS GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE "FAIRNESS AND LEGALITY" OF THE REGISTRATION AS IT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT THUS FAR AND IT IS "BY NO MEANS CERTAIN" THAT THE CURRENT REGISTRATIONS WILL BE THROWN OUT AND THE PROCESS STARTED ANEW.

3. ACCORDING TO EARLIER REPORTS, CHURCH LEADERS WHO MET LAST WEEK WITH UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE MARTTI AHTISAARI URGED DELAY OF A FREE ELECTION UNTIL APRIL OF NEXT YEAR. SPEAKING FOR THE GROUPS, WHICH INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF CATHOLIC, METHODIST, AS WELL AS HIS OWN UNITED EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES, DR. LUKAS DE VRIES WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY HAS NOT YET BEEN CREATED. HE ALSO CALLED FOR THE RETURN OF BETWEEN 6,000 AND 8,000 REFUGEES AND DETAINEES TO NAMIBIA BEFORE ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE. FINALLY, DE VRIES URGED CHURCH REPRESENTATION IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, EMPHASIZING THE CONCILIATORY ROLE THE CHURCHES COULD PLAY.

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PAGE 03     PRETOR 04718 141841Z

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDEPENDENCE, VOTER REGISTRATION, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS  
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**Draft Date:** 14 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Subject:** NAMIBIA: VIEWS EXPRESSED ON REGISTRATION ISSUE AND INDEPENDENCE DATE  
**TAGS:** PORG, SOPN, WA, SF, (SAUNDERS, CLIFF)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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